

Application No. 09/738,988

REMARKS

The Office Action of October 7, 2004 has been carefully considered. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested. Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. Of these, claims 1, 11, and 20 are independent claims.

This Amendment corrects a typographical error in the specification.

In addition, this Amendment amends claims 1-6 and 8-11, and adds claims 12-20. Support for these amendments is found in the Applicant's Figures 3A-3C and the description related thereto in the specification.

1. Response to Claim Objections

Section 2, on page 2 of the Office Action, objects to informalities in claims 1, 9, and 11. This Amendment amends claims 1, 9, and 11 to correct the formalities. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits these objections to the claims 1, 9, and 11 are believed to be overcome.

2. Response to Rejection Under 35 USC 102

Section 3, on pages 2-6 of the Office Action, rejects claims 1-11 under 35 USC 102(a and e) as being anticipated by Clary et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,144,371 (hereinafter referred to as Clary). In response thereto, Applicant amends the claims to more clearly set forth what is believed to be Applicant's invention.

The Office Action asserts that the following sections of Clary anticipate Applicant's claimed invention: col. 4, lines 53-65; col. 5, lines 25-67; col. 7, lines 10-56; col. 9, lines 44-67; col. 10, lines 24-56; col. 12, lines 6-12; Fig. 1, element 110; and Fig. 3, element 112 (hereinafter referred to as "Cited Sections of Clary"). In the Cited Sections of Clary, Clary discloses a scheduling system that includes a recording unit, a markable surface, and a stylus. A stroke mark from the stylus conveys scheduling information, which is stored in a memory. A scheduling conflict check signal can search for schedule openings and/or conflicts of the scheduling information stored in the memory relative to preexisting appointments. (See Clary Abstract, col. 9, line 55 – col. 10, line 6.) An indicator (e.g., element 112 in Figure 3) may be used to signal a scheduling conflict. (See Clary col. 12, lines 17-18.)

In contrast, Applicant respectfully submits that the Cited Sections of Clary fail

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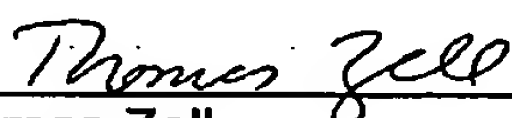
to disclosed or suggest Applicant's invention as recited in independent claims 1, 11, and 20, which set forth: (a) recording scheduling decisions manually expressed on scheduling boards within workspaces, where the scheduling decisions are used to create scheduling decision data; (b) recognizing a request for task outsourcing that is manually expressed on a scheduling board of the workspaces using a first shape and a request for task in-sourcing that is manually expressed on a scheduling board of the workspaces using a second shape distinct from the first shape; and (c1) in-sourcing a task to a first workspace when a second workspace indicates, with the first shape, a request for outsourcing, and a scheduling request from the first workspace indicates, with the second shape, a free time slot that satisfies a start time and completion time of a scheduling request from the second workspace; or (c2) outsourcing a task from the first workspace when the first workspace indicates, with the first shape, a request for outsourcing, and a scheduling request from the second workspace indicates, with the second shape, a free time slot that satisfies a start time and a completion time of a scheduling request from the first workspace.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 11, and 20 are patentably distinguishable over Clary. Insofar as claims 2-10 and 12-19 are concerned, these claims depend from one of now presumably allowable independent claims 1 or 11 and are also believed to be in allowable condition.

3. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, reconsideration of this application and allowance thereof are earnestly solicited. In the event the Examiner considers a personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is hereby requested to call Attorney for Applicant(s), Thomas Zell.

Respectfully submitted,



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